



TFW

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

July 27, 2004  
Date

*Mary Paul*  
Signature

**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

AXEL PREUSSE  
MARKUS NOPPER  
HOLGER SCHUHRER

Serial No.: 10/747,722

Filed: December 29, 2003

For: METHOD OF REDUCING WAFER  
CONTAMINATION BY REMOVING  
UNDER-METAL LAYERS AT THE  
WAFER EDGE

Group Art Unit: 2811

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Dkt. No.: 2000.109700/DE0351

Customer No.: 23720

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. A copy of the excerpts from a book (reference C1) as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. Because the filing date of the present application is after June 30, 2003, copies of the listed U.S. patents are not included.

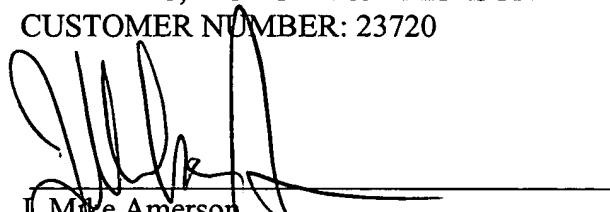
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of a first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits, and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these materials, the Director is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Williams, Morgan & Amerson, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-0786/2000.109700.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON  
CUSTOMER NUMBER: 23720

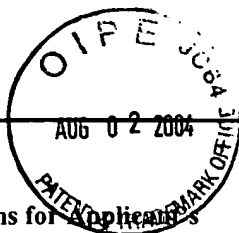


J. Mike Amerson  
Reg. No. 35,426  
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100  
Houston, Texas 77042  
(713) 934-7000  
(713) 934-7011

Date: July 27, 2004

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Form PTO-1449 (modified)



List of Patents and Publications for Applicant's

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No.

2000.109700/DE0351

Serial No.

10/747,722

Applicant

Axel Preusse, Markus Nopper and Holger Schuhrer

Filing Date:

December 29, 2003

Group:

2811

U.S. Patent Documents

See Page 1

Foreign Patent Documents

See Page 1

Other Art

See Page 1

## U.S. Patent Documents

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date of App.
	A1	5,091,047	2/25/92	Cleeves <i>et al.</i>	156	643	
	A2	5,340,435	8/23/94	Ito <i>et al.</i>	156	632	
	A3	5,966,628	10/12/99	Wei <i>et al.</i>	438	584	
	A4	6,150,696	11/21/00	Iwamatsu <i>et al.</i>	257	347	
	A5						

## Foreign Patent Documents

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes/No
	B1						
	B2						
	B3						

## Other Art (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Citation
	C1	Wolf <i>et al.</i> , SILICON PROCESSING FOR THE VLSI ERA, Vol. 1: Process Technology, pp. 400-403 and 532-533, 1986
	C2	
	C3	

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: INITIAL IF REFERENCE CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED. INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.